

BCMG Speakers Bureau Topics

Herbs

Growing Herbs Indoors – This nuts and bolts seminar discusses how to successfully grow herbs indoors by seed, tip propagation, or transplant. Topics include proper containers, appropriate growing mediums, necessary environmental controls (temperature, humidity, air circulation), lighting options, and a healthy water/fertilizing regimen.

Mother Nature's Pharmacopeia – This presentation explores the history of pharmacology and the use of herbs as medicine both in the past and in the present. Truth be told, science has done much to validate what the ancients practiced all along. The everyday herbs we cook with are as healthful as they are tasty.

Miscellaneous

Ask a Master Gardener – Special Victims Unit – Slide presentation and discussion on any particular topic a group might request.

Container Gardening – All you need to know about containers: types of containers, fertilizers, compost, type of soil-less mixes, watering, and what to plant.



Interesting Plants for Shade

Gardening – Are you interested in lighting up a shady corner of your garden? Let this speaker, who gardens in the shade in Monkton, MD, share her practical experience with many different plants that can bring structure and light to areas that otherwise go unnoticed. Many new perennials and shrubs are covered in addition to the high performers that no shade gardens should be without. A focus on plants and techniques to keep deer and voles at bay can also be included.

Simple Plant Propagation – Learn the basics of seed starting, layering, cultivating self-sown seedlings, division, and soft woodcuttings to create more plants for your garden or to share with friends. Division is also necessary for most plants over time, so this

presentation will help you keep your garden healthy, expand your beds, and give you more plants to share.

Gardening for Kids – A hands-on program for kids age 5 to 11 that presents the parts of a plant, what a plant needs to grow, how plants grow from seeds, and which parts are edible. Kids get to decorate a pot, fill it with soil, and plant a seed, seedling, or small plant to take home and watch grow.



Pests

Getting to Know the Brown Marmorated Stink Bug – This presentation will discuss the origin of the BMS, the history of its spread in the US, its life cycle, the damage it does, and the latest information on what can be done about them.

Deer and Vole Control for Homeowners – Have you ever installed a wonderful new plant only to have it disappear underground . . . or have it mown down by foraging deer? This presentation explains the difference between moles and voles, reviews the best techniques to keep munchers at bay, and suggests deer-proof and deer-resistant plants for sun and shade.



IPM (Integrated Pest Management) in the Vegetable Garden – Learn the best organic gardening practices to improve production and combat pests in the garden. It has four components: cultural, physical, biological and chemical strategies.

Plant Identification

Trees in the 'Hood – In this presentation, you will become acquainted with thirty-five trees commonly found in Greenspring Valley, Baltimore County, learn identification techniques, and be introduced to Latin naming conventions. Other topics to be addressed include ornamental features, suitability for use in a

landscape, potential diseases and insect problems, commercial uses, and how to distinguish natives from look-alike non-natives.

Weeds in the 'Hood – This presentation identifies about 20 common lawn weeds and discusses various approaches to lawn care including the use of herbicides.

Water Management

Water Management in Your Landscape – Learn the basics of storm water from understanding how water moves and acts in the landscape, assessing the cause and effect of problems in your site, and determining appropriate solutions that you can implement.

Rain Garden Basics – Learn the basics of rain gardens including how they work, where to locate them, size and shape, planting, and maintenance.

Rain Garden Design & Construction – Learn how to design and construct a rain garden including assessing your site, determining the right location, size and shape for the garden, selecting the appropriate plants, and the requirements of garden maintenance.

Rain Gardens – Not the Solution for Every Storm Water Problem – A rain garden may not be the right solution for your storm water problem.



Learn how other techniques can be used to solve specific issues in your landscape including Bay-Wise landscaping principles, pervious surface materials, rain barrels, disconnecting downspouts, diverting runoff from paved surfaces, and modifying surface runoff patterns in the landscape.

To find out more contact the Baltimore County Master Gardener Office at:
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BCMG Speakers Bureau



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Master Gardeners
UNIVERSITY OF
MARYLAND
EXTENSION
Baltimore County

The University of Maryland, College of Agriculture and Natural Resources programs are open to all and will not discriminate against anyone because of race, age, sex, color, sexual orientation, physical or mental disability, religion, ancestry, or natural origin, marital status, genetic information, political affiliation, or gender identity and expression.

Our Vision: The Maryland Master Gardener vision is a healthier world through environmental stewardship.

Our Mission: We support the University of Maryland Extension mission by educating residents about safe, effective, and sustainable horticultural practices that build healthy gardens, landscapes, and communities.

Master Gardeners are available to provide education to community groups, churches, businesses, clubs, and non-profits. Suggested honorarium is \$75. Your donation helps sustain the Master Garden program and our environmental outreach throughout Baltimore County.

UME Baltimore County Master Gardeners are a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization.



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Bay Wise

Bay Wise Landscaping – Did you know that everyone in Maryland, Delaware, Washington DC, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and West Virginia lives within half a mile of a stream, river, or storm drain that ultimately leads to the Chesapeake Bay? The practices we use in maintaining our lawns and landscapes can affect the health of our local waterways and our environment. Learn about the Maryland Bay-Wise Program along with gardening and landscaping practices anyone can implement in order to have a positive impact on the Chesapeake Bay.

Bay Wise Gardening / State of the Bay – The Chesapeake Bay and many of our rivers and streams are seriously degraded due in part to poor gardening and landscaping practices. Learn how you can use sustainable practices and plants to create a healthy environment and beautiful gardens with Bay-Wise landscaping.

Native Plants in the Landscape – What are native plants, and why should we include them in our landscapes? This presentation will define and describe native plants and explain why they are beneficial to wildlife and local ecosystems. Gain a basic understanding of gardening with natives, including information about selecting and purchasing Maryland native plants and incorporating them into your own garden and landscape.

Invasive Plants – What Can We Do? – Some species of non-native plants have established themselves in our area and become invasive problems, threatening the biodiversity of our natural ecosystems. Learn about common invasive plants in Maryland and how to identify them. We'll discuss the history of how they arrived on the scene, the characteristics that give them a competitive advantage, and the negative impacts on our local ecosystems.



Native Alternatives to Invasive Plants – Some of the non-native plants that have become invasive species in our area are plants that were actually brought here intentionally, for horticultural purposes. They have escaped cultivation, spread to natural areas, and are degrading wildlife habitat and diminishing biodiversity. Many of these are still being sold for landscape use. Learn about some beautiful native alternatives that fill the same needs in your garden as these problem plants and the benefits of using them.

Let It Rain – Native Plants for Wet Areas – Many homeowners have areas in their landscapes where storm water collects or needs to be managed in some way. Sometimes a rain garden is a good option to deal with this problem. Other situations call for a shrub or tree that will be happy with “wet feet.” This presentation will identify native plants that thrive in and beautify wet areas of your landscape.

Who Polluted the Chesapeake? – In this activity, children of all ages participate in a 20-30 minute interactive story to learn how rivers become polluted over time as human populations have increased and land uses have changed. This example demonstrates that just as we each contribute to the problem, we can also each be part of the solution.

Xeriscaping for a Temperate Climate – Xeriscaping is a systematic method of water conservation that can help Maryland gardeners deal with the effects of hot, dry summers. Learn how using minimal amounts of water, selecting the proper plants, and placing them appropriately can keep your home landscape green all summer long.



Grow It Eat It

Vegetable Gardening Basics – A range of topics related to growing vegetables, including starting your first garden through advanced techniques and tips to extend the season, preventing and managing pests

and diseases, growing food in containers, and get the most from your garden. Speakers can easily tailor this presentation to thoroughly cover your group's particular needs/interests.

Vegetable Gardening – Beyond the Basics – Advanced techniques in any aspect of vegetable gardening. Speakers can easily tailor this presentation to thoroughly cover your group's particular needs/interests.

Waking up Your Garden – This session is designed for presentation in late winter and early spring (February - early May). The speaker will share the best practices that will give plants and gardens the best start for a strong growing season.

Putting Your Garden to Bed – This session is designed for presentation in late summer and early autumn (September – November). The focus is on applying best practices to ensure soil and plant health through the winter for minimal work and fewer pest and virus issues in the spring.

Raised Bed Gardening – Why should gardeners install raised beds? This presentation shows the advantages of using raised beds for both the garden and the gardener. Raised beds extend the growing season, bring order to the garden, and keep problems away from the vegetables. Explore the different types of materials to use to create raised beds, and get great ideas for your garden. Directions for building your own raised bed are also included.



Introduction to Home Composting – Come learn about the environmental benefits of composting and how you can easily reduce waste at home. Let BCMG educators instruct you on different types of composters and composting. Learn how to make a worm-composting bin and how to compost with green waste (grass clippings, young weeds, etc.) and brown waste (twigs, paper, dead plants, leaves, straw, etc.). ▶